

U.S. Application No.:  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3883.021

**REMARKS**

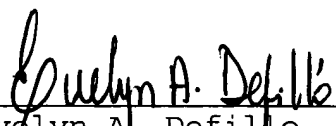
The claims have been amended to conform the claims to U.S. requirements, i.e., in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims, improper claim dependencies, claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added to the claims.

Amendments to the specification have been made to reflect that this application is a **national stage** of PCT/JP03/00261 filed January 15, 2003 and is based upon Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-042355, filed January 15, 2002 and Japanese Application No. 2002-213695 filed July 23, 2002 under the International Convention.

Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added to the specification or the claims.

Entry and favorable consideration prior to consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: July 15, 2004

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**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EV420487469US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **July 15, 2004**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: **Mail Stop: PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

  
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Bonnie L. Horst